



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

ELEVENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2026/2027)

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 06, 2026 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PETITIONS

PAPERS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 12 to the Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism**

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to the Government's policy for facilitating foreign franchise investment in Trinidad and Tobago, and its implications for the country's foreign exchange position, can the Minister state:

- (i) whether the Government has established a policy framework for assessing the foreign exchange implications of approving or facilitating the establishment or expansion of foreign franchise operations;
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, whether such framework evaluates the anticipated foreign exchange outflows associated with franchise fees, royalties, imported goods and services, and profit repatriation; and
- (iii) whether such framework includes an assessment of the net economic benefits, including employment creation, tax revenues, local procurement, technology transfer and foreign direct investment?

* Question No. 12 was deferred for two weeks on 22.09.2026

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled 'An Act to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act, Chap. 11:25, the Registration of Clubs Act, Chap. 21:01, the Tobacco Control Act, Chap. 30:04, the Children Act, Chap. 46:01, the Liquor Licences Act, Chap. 84:10, the Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Act, No. 8 of 2021 and the Cannabis Control Act, No. 10 of 2022; and to provide for related matters.'
(By the Attorney General)
2. A Bill entitled 'An Act to amend the Maternity Protection Act, Chap. 45:57.'
(By the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development)
3. A Bill entitled 'An Act to repeal and replace the Shipping Act, Chap. 50:10, the Harbours Act, Chap. 50:06, the Droghers Act, Chap. 50:07, the Motor Launches Act, Chap. 50:08, the Marking of Ships Act, Chap. 50:09, to amend the Port Authority Act, Chap. 51:01, the Pilotage Act, Chap. 51:02, the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01 and the Coroners Act, Chap. 6:04 to provide for the certification and registration of seafarers and the certification and registration of vessels and offshore installations, matters relating to crew safety and security of life at sea and matters incidental thereto.'
(By the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was adjourned on Tuesday September 22, 2026, will be resumed:**
WHEREAS section 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 1:01, affirms the principle of social justice including equality of opportunity and access to decent work;
AND WHEREAS the economic transformation and sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago require coordinated and forward-looking national workforce planning;
AND WHEREAS persistent labour market mismatches, including skills gaps, youth unemployment, underemployment and misalignment between education and national economic priorities, continue to constrain productivity and economic participation;
AND WHEREAS international best practice among advanced economies demonstrates the value of integrated workforce development frameworks grounded in labour market intelligence and strong collaboration among government, industry, education and training institutions;

AND WHEREAS a National Workforce and Manpower Strategic Plan for Trinidad and Tobago should provide for coordinated labour market forecasting; alignment of education and technical and vocational training systems with national development priorities; strengthened industry-education partnerships and work-integrated learning opportunities; development of digital, critical-thinking, green economy and entrepreneurial skills; measures to address youth unemployment and participation disparities; and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, including periodic reporting to Parliament;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate calls upon the Government to prepare and table in Parliament, within twelve (12) months, a comprehensive National Workforce and Manpower Strategic Plan for Trinidad and Tobago, inclusive of a legislative and institutional framework.

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

2. **WHEREAS** Trinidad and Tobago's healthcare system relies predominantly on paper-based records;

AND WHEREAS the fragmentation of patient health information across public and private medical institutions owing to the absence of a unified, interoperable Electronic Medical Records system contributes to duplication of diagnostic procedures, delays in treatment and inefficient use of limited health resources, even more so in emergency cases;

AND WHEREAS digital transformation of health services is a stated priority of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate calls upon the Government to develop a comprehensive policy and legislative framework for the development of a National Electronic Medical Records system to manage medical records and health data governance, including standards for the recording, processing, storage, protection and secure sharing of health information, including appropriate cybersecurity and data protection safeguards, interoperability standards, and phased implementation across public and private healthcare institutions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government introduce into Parliament, within twelve (12) months, comprehensive legislation to give effect to a national framework for medical records and health data governance.

(By Senator Dr. Desirée Murray)

3. **WHEREAS** forests constitute a critical national asset that supports the environmental, economic and social development of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS Trinidad and Tobago has established a legislative and policy framework for the protection and management of forests, wildlife, protected areas, watersheds and the environment, including the Forest Act, Chap. 66:01, the Conservation of Wildlife Act, Chap. 67:01, the State Lands Act, Chap. 57:01, and the Environmental Management Act, Chap. 35:05 and multiple policies aimed at forest and wildlife protection, biodiversity and most recently climate change;

AND WHEREAS evidence presented at Parliamentary Committee inquiries, and other public consultations, has highlighted ongoing concerns regarding deforestation, , biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation, and the increasing impact of climate change on the natural environment and communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Senate calls upon the Government to develop and table in Parliament, within twelve (12) months, an integrated, comprehensive National Forest Conservation and Reforestation Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago, including an implementation plan for the review and strengthening of existing legislation, policies and institutional arrangements relating to forests, protected areas, biodiversity conservation and watershed management.

(By Senator Alicia Lalite-Ettienne)

Nataki Atiba-Dilchan
Clerk of the Senate

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

October 03, 2026

ORDER PAPER TUESDAY OCTOBER 06, 2026
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 18 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to payments owed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including small contractors and sole traders, for goods and services provided to the Ministry and the agencies under its purview, will the Minister provide, for the period May 2025 to August 31, 2026, a breakdown for the Ministry and each agency under its purview of:

- (i) the total value of outstanding payments;
- (ii) the value of such payments outstanding for: (a) 30 - 60 days; (b) 61 - 90 days; (c) 91 - 180 days; and (d) more than 180 days; and
- (iii) the number of SMEs, small contractors and sole traders to which these outstanding payments are owed?

(Answer due by October 21, 2026)

Question No. 19 to the Minister of Works and Infrastructure

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to payments owed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including small contractors and sole traders, for goods and services provided to the Ministry and the agencies under its purview, will the Minister provide, for the period May 2025 to August 31, 2026, a breakdown for the Ministry and each agency under its purview of:

- (i) the total value of outstanding payments;
- (ii) the value of such payments outstanding for: (a) 30 - 60 days; (b) 61 - 90 days; (c) 91 - 180 days; and (d) more than 180 days; and
- (iii) the number of SMEs, small contractors and sole traders to which these outstanding payments are owed?

(Answer due by October 21, 2026)

Question No. 20 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to payments owed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including small contractors and sole traders, for goods and services provided to the Ministry and the agencies under its purview, will the Minister provide, for the period May 2025 to August 31, 2026, a breakdown for the Ministry and each agency under its purview of:

- (i) the total value of outstanding payments;
- (ii) the value of such payments outstanding for: (a) 30 - 60 days; (b) 61 - 90 days; (c) 91 - 180 days; and (d) more than 180 days; and
- (iii) the number of SMEs, small contractors and sole traders to which these outstanding payments are owed?

(Answer due by October 21, 2026)

Question No. 21 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to payments owed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including small contractors and sole traders, for goods and services provided to the Ministry and the agencies under its purview, will the Minister provide, for the period May 2025 to August 31, 2026, a breakdown for the Ministry and each agency under its purview of:

- (i) the total value of outstanding payments;
- (ii) the value of such payments outstanding for: (a) 30 - 60 days; (b) 61 - 90 days; (c) 91 - 180 days; and (d) more than 180 days; and
- (iii) the number of SMEs, small contractors and sole traders to which these outstanding payments are owed?

(Answer due by October 21, 2026)

Question No. 22 to the Minister of Housing

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to payments owed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including small contractors and sole traders, for goods and services provided to the Ministry and the agencies under its purview, will the Minister provide, for the period May 2025 to August 31, 2026, a breakdown for the Ministry and each agency under its purview of:

- (i) the total value of outstanding payments;
- (ii) the value of such payments outstanding for: (a) 30 - 60 days; (b) 61 - 90 days; (c) 91 - 180 days; and (d) more than 180 days; and
- (iii) the number of SMEs, small contractors and sole traders to which these outstanding payments are owed?

(Answer due by October 21, 2026)

Question No. 23 to the Minister of Homeland Security

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to payments owed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including small contractors and sole traders, for goods and services provided to the Ministry and the agencies under its purview, will the Minister provide, for the period May 2025 to August 31, 2026, a breakdown for the Ministry and each agency under its purview of:

- (i) the total value of outstanding payments;
- (ii) the value of such payments outstanding for: (a) 30 - 60 days; (b) 61 - 90 days; (c) 91 - 180 days; and (d) more than 180 days; and
- (iii) the number of SMEs, small contractors and sole traders to which these outstanding payments are owed?

(Answer due by October 21, 2026)

Question No. 24 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

With respect to payments owed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including small contractors and sole traders, for goods and services provided to the Ministry and the agencies under its purview, will the Minister provide, for the period May 2025 to August 31, 2026, a breakdown for the Ministry and each agency under its purview of:

- (i) the total value of outstanding payments;
- (ii) the value of such payments outstanding for: (a) 30 - 60 days; (b) 61 - 90 days; (c) 91 - 180 days; and (d) more than 180 days; and
- (iii) the number of SMEs, small contractors and sole traders to which these outstanding payments are owed?

(Answer due by October 21, 2026)

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